

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10. The claims comply with the written description requirement of § 112, first paragraph, because the as-filed specification and drawings provide a written description of the invention, as claimed. The claim language added in the Amendment of August 11, 2003, and entered with the RCE filed September 29, 2003 is not new matter.

The Examiner contends that the as-filed specification and drawings do not describe or show "four connection axial portions and four link elements connecting the four connection axial portions." This contention is incorrect for the following reasons.

The claimed "first parallel link mechanism" corresponds to parallel link mechanism A. As disclosed at page 5, lines 24-26, parallel link mechanism A includes a brake pedal 21, an operation lever 23, an adjustment lever 24, and a connection link 28. These four components, 21, 23, 24, and 28, comprise "four link elements" for the first parallel link mechanism. Page 5, line 26 - page 6, line 9 disclose that operation lever 23 and adjustment lever 24 are coupled via a connection axial portion 22; brake pedal 21 and adjustment lever 24 are coupled via a connection pin 25; brake pedal 21 and connection link 28 are coupled via a connection pin 26; and operation lever 23 and connection link 28 are coupled via a connection pin 27. These four components, 22, 25, 26, and 27, comprise "four connection axial portions" for the first parallel link mechanism.

The claimed "second parallel link mechanism" corresponds to parallel link mechanism B. Page 6, lines 20-23 discloses that parallel link mechanism B includes an accelerator pedal 31, an operation lever 33, an adjustment lever 34, and a connection

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link 38. These four components, 31, 33, 34, and 38, comprise "four link elements" for the second parallel link mechanism. Page 6, line 23 - page 7, line 6 discloses that operation lever 33 and adjustment lever 34 are coupled via a connection axial portion 32; accelerator pedal 31 and adjustment lever 34 are coupled via a connection pin 35; accelerator pedal 31 and connection link 38 are coupled via a connection pin 36; operation lever 33 and connection link 38 are coupled via a connection pin 37. These components, 32, 35, 36, and 37, comprise "four connection axial portions" for the second parallel link mechanism.

Moreover, these four link elements and four connection axial portions for each of the parallel link mechanisms are depicted in the as-filed drawings; specifically in Figs. 1, 2, and 5.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the § 112, first paragraph rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10 is unsupported and should be withdrawn.

Since the claims have not been rejected under prior art, and since claims 3, 5, and 8 have been expressly allowed, applicant submits that withdrawal of the § 112, first paragraph rejection places all of the claims in condition for allowance, and therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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